

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 6, 2001, the Examiner rejected Applicants' claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 28, 29, 50-59 and 61-63 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Miller Patent 5,202825. The remaining claims are rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Miller in view of Swartz, Postrel, Ju, Walker, Talati or combination of these secondary references.

In response to the rejection Applicants have canceled claims 50-56 and 58 to 62. Independent claims 1, 20, 31, 57 and 63 are amended to clarify the subject matter claimed. Dependent claims 3, 8, 9 and 15 are amended to correct minor errors noted therein. Claim 35, which was redundant with claim 32, is canceled.

Applicants have carefully considered the rejection and references cited by the Examiner. The above amendments and within Remarks are believed to fully address the rejections set forth in the Office Action.

Applicants' invention is a combination of a portable terminal, having wireless local area network communication capability with other components to form a novel and versatile tendering station. The invention addresses the same environment a discussed in the Miller patent, a retail establishment having a wireless network to provide communications to terminals. In this environment it may be desirable to provide moveable stations, such as Miller station 40, which have the capability of providing wireless communications with a central computer and the equipment necessary to complete a sales transaction. Accordingly, Miller and Applicants herein address the same problem, but provide different solutions.

As set forth above, the independent claims are amended to clarify that the terminals referred to therein are removeably connected to the housing by a terminal interface. Accordingly, as described in the specification, the terminals can function in two operating modes. When removed from the housing the terminals can function as an easily portable aide to a salesman, for example to obtain information for a customer concerning colors in stock, delivery or other data stored in the computer. Thus the terminals function as terminals 33 of the Miller patent.

When the same terminals of the present invention are received at the terminal interface of the claimed tendering station, it performs the processing and communications functions required to complete a transaction, while providing data to the one or more peripheral devices of the tendering station for providing a display or printed receipt.

Thus, while Miller takes the approach of using a specialized tendering station with built in processor and communication, the claimed tendering station uses a connected wireless terminal which can also operate separately from the station. Thus, using different portable terminals, sales clerks can share the same tendering station for completing a transaction and use the terminals separately at other times.

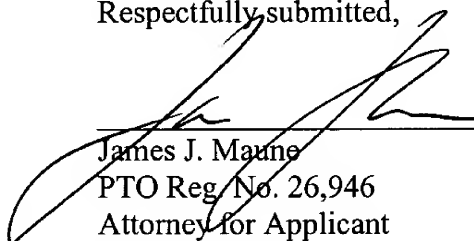
None of the references suggest using the portable terminals to provide the processing and communications for the tendering station, and in fact Miller's teaching is contrary. For example, Miller suggests a replaceable radio transmitter/receiver for use with the central computer and the tendering station, but not for the portable terminals. Accordingly, Applicants independent claims 1, 20, 31 and 57 are not anticipated by the Miller Patent and the claims dependent thereon are not rendered obvious by the combination of Miller with the other references.

## PATENT

Claim 63, directed to a method for controlling functions in a terminal, is not anticipated by the Miller disclosure at Column 10, line 64 to Column 11, line 47 as asserted by the Examiner in the last paragraph of page 3, of the Office Action. In particular, this portion of the Miller Patent describes assignment of a terminal 33 to a clerk and use by the clerk to process orders. There is no disclosure of the claimed operation whereby the host processor uses identification information entered by a terminal user to determine authorized functions to be made available to the user. Accordingly, claim 63 is not anticipated.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks favorable reconsideration is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

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**In the Claims:**

Amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Amended) A tendering station comprising

a movable housing

a [removable] terminal removeably connected [attached] to said housing by a terminal interface for acquiring transaction information, said terminal having a display and a device for communicating [the] information over a wireless communication network, and at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said housing and coupled to said terminal by said terminal interface for conveying [the] transaction information and related information to or from a user.

3. (Amended) The tendering station according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a top surface having a cradle for mounting the removable terminal and said at least one peripheral device.

8. (Amended) The tendering station according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one peripheral device comprises a further display device for displaying transaction and related information.

## PATENT

9. (Amended) The tendering station according to Claim 8, wherein said further display device comprises an adjustable support attached to said housing.

15. (Amended) The tendering station according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one peripheral device comprises a telephone headset having a transceiver for receiving and transmitting audio information to and from said terminal for retransmission from said terminal [to] over said wireless communications network.

20 (Amended) A portable customer service station for facilitating a customer transaction in a shopping facility, said customer service station comprising:

a movable housing;

a [removable] handheld terminal removeably connected to [attached] said housing by a terminal interface for acquiring transaction information, said terminal having a display, a wireless radio for communicating the information over a wireless communication network, at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions, and a scanner for reading bar code information;

a customer display attached to said housing and coupled to said terminal for displaying the transaction information and related information to a customer; and

a printer device for printing receipts or transaction reports.

31. (Amended) A portable tendering station for facilitating a customer transaction in a shopping facility, said tendering station comprising:

a movable housing;

a cradle interface attached to said housing;

a [removable] handheld terminal removeably connected to said cradle interface for acquiring transaction information, said terminal having a display, a wireless radio for communicating the information over a wireless communication network, at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions, and a scanner for reading bar code information; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said station and in communication with said terminal via said cradle interface for conveying the transaction information and related information to or from a customer, said at least one peripheral device being used to complete said transaction.

Cancel Claim 35.

Cancel Claims 50 to 56.

57. (Amended) A system for providing tendering and customer services, comprising:

a host computer for processing transaction data;

a controller coupled to said host computer for communicating the transaction information to and from said host computer;

a wireless communication network coupled to said controller for communicating the transaction information to and from said controller; and

a portable station in communication with said network for providing the transaction information to said network, said station comprising:

a movable housing;

## PATENT

a [removable] terminal [attached] removeably connected to said housing by a terminal interface for acquiring the transaction information, said terminal having a display and a device for communicating the information over said wireless network, and at least one activation key for activating one or more user functions; and

at least one peripheral device attached to said housing and coupled to said terminal by said terminal interface for conveying the transaction information and related information to or from a user.

Cancel Claims 58 to 62.

63. (Amended) In a system wherein a host processor communicates with a plurality of mobile terminals using radio data communication, a method for controlling functions available to terminal users, comprising:

issuing a terminal to a user;

receiving identification data specific to said user on said terminal and communicating said identification data to said host processor;

operating said host processor to determine authorized functions to be made available to said user, using said identification data;

communicating a message to said terminal identifying available authorized functions; and

operating said host processor to provide user selected ones of said [available] authorized functions to said [user] terminal.